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INTELLOFAK 77

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Siberia

DATE: 25X1X

SUBJECT Economic Information: Soviets in Blagoveshchensk;
Use of Japanese POWs

INFO. [REDACTED]

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1. There are 1,090 Japanese prisoners being used in railway construction at Blagoveshchensk (127-32, 50-20). This group of prisoners is called the Third Battalion of the Third Camp of the Khabarovsk sector, and is divided into many units. There are several Soviet soldiers as guards and two engineers who supervise the work of the prisoners. In addition, many Japanese are compelled to work in mills. Three Japanese language newspapers, issued in Khabarovsk by Soviet authorities, were distributed among the POWs. There are between seventy and one hundred Japanese POWs in Baido (127-30, 50-15).
2. The Blagoveshchensk station is piled high with foodstuffs from China. The railroad at Blagoveshchensk is only a branch line of the Trans-Siberian line and accommodates only small-sized cars. (Mukden Note: It was not explained whether narrow gauge track or merely light weight cars was meant.)
3. A highway, ten meters wide, runs along the U. S. S. R. border.
4. Pillboxes and barricades stretch along the river front at Blagoveshchensk and to the east. Several pillboxes are mounted on islands in the river.
5. There is a streetcar line in Blagoveshchensk. At every car-stop there is a loud-speaker which broadcasts news, music, etc.

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